



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 24, 2016

Attorney General Loretta Lynch
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20525

Chairwoman Edith Ramirez
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Attorney General Lynch, Secretary Vilsack, and Chairwoman Ramirez:

I would like to express my deep concern regarding the recent mergers and acquisitions of major agricultural seed and chemical companies. The potential impact of these consolidations on Minnesota farmers could be significant. I strongly urge the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, and the United States Department of Agriculture to carefully and thoroughly review these merger and acquisition proposals to ensure that farmers will continue to have choice and competitive input prices.

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy supporting over 340,000 jobs and \$90 billion in economic activity. Minnesota farmers produce over \$10 billion in crop receipts each year. Minnesota ranks as the 4th largest agricultural exporting state in the United States. Minnesota farmers are the foundation for our thriving and robust agricultural sector, which is why it is critical that these mergers be carefully reviewed to ensure access to affordable seed and other crop input products.

Mergers and acquisitions of agribusiness companies have already fundamentally changed input product options. Consolidation over time has led to the control of large portions of the market for seed, genetic material, and agricultural chemicals by six major companies. The recent announcements of mergers and acquisitions of Dow and DuPont, Bayer and Monsanto, and ChemChina and Syngenta would further consolidate control to three major companies. For farmers this could mean less competition, less choice and higher prices for the inputs they rely on to be competitive in the global agricultural marketplace.

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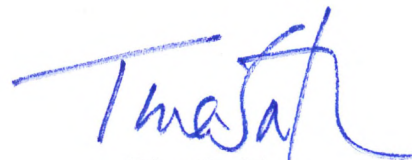
The agricultural seed and chemical industry, along with public investments in agricultural research, have made critical strides in improving the productivity, efficiency and environmental impacts of agricultural production. A competitive marketplace is critical to accelerate the level of innovation necessary to meet the production needs of a growing population.

At a time when farmers are experiencing commodity prices lower than the cost of production, I am concerned that the creation of less choice in the marketplace will result in increased input prices for which farmers are already paying a high premium. I urge you all to carefully consider these consolidations and what their outcomes will mean for farm families in Minnesota and across the nation. Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to our continued work together to ensure that agriculture remains a strong and vibrant economy.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor



Tina Smith
Lt. Governor

cc:

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator Al Franken
U.S. Representative Tim Walz
U.S. Representative John Kline
U.S. Representative Erik Paulsen
U.S. Representative Betty McCollum
U.S. Representative Keith Ellison
U.S. Representative Tom Emmer
U.S. Representative Collin Peterson
U.S. Representative Rick Nolan